

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method of identifying a local service provider of a caller in response to a telephone call from the caller to a called party, the method comprising:

receiving a request in a first format from a sender for an identity of the caller's local service provider, the call having been suspended at a switch of an interexchange carrier;

sending a request in a second format to an LNP database, based on a telephone number of the caller, to determine which of a plurality of databases to query, the second format being distinct from the first format;

receiving an identification of a database to query from the LNP database;

determining a message type to send to the identified database to query;

launching a query to the identified database;

receiving an identification of the caller's local service provider from the identified database in response to the query; and

sending a notification to the sender, the notification comprising identifying information of the identified local service provider of the caller and whether an agreement exists between the identified local service provider and the interexchange carrier,

wherein the interexchange carrier uses the notification to decide whether to connect the suspended call to the called party.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining of message type is based upon a cost associated with each of a plurality of available message types.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining of message type is based upon the message type supported by the identified database.

4-8. (canceled)

9. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of databases comprises a line information database.

10 -17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) A system for identifying a local service provider of a caller associated with a telephone call from the caller to a called party, the system comprising:

a gateway comprising a plurality of platforms configured to dynamically load share requests, the gateway receiving a request in a first format requesting an identification of the local service provider of the caller, the gateway configured to determine one of a plurality of message types in which to query an identified database, the identified database being determined as a result of sending a request in a second format distinct from the first format to an LNP database and receiving a response from the LNP database, to launch a query to the identified database, and to receive an identification of the local service provider of the caller,

wherein the gateway determines the message type based upon a cost associated with each of a plurality of available message types and based upon a message type supported by the identified database.

19. (canceled)

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20. (canceled)

21. (original) The system according to claim 18, wherein the request is received prior to the telephone call being connected to the called party.

22. (original) The system according to claim 18, wherein the request is received during the pendency of the telephone call.

23. (original) The system according to claim 18, wherein the request is received after the telephone call has been disconnected.

24. (previously presented) The system according to claim 18, wherein the identified database comprises a line information database.

25 - 27. (canceled)

28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the query comprises a GetData query.

29. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the query comprises an originating line number screening query.

30. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the query comprises a billed number screening query.

31. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising sending a request to an access routing guide to determine which of a plurality of databases to query.

32. (previously presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the access routing guide comprises a line information database (LIDB) access routing guide.

33. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving an identification of the caller's local service provider further comprises receiving an identification of a revenue accounting office, account owner, and billing service provider associated with the telephone number of the caller.

34. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first format comprises a text format.

35. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first format comprises ASCII text.

36. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the second format comprises an SS7 format.

37. (previously presented) The system according to claim 18, wherein the request is received after the call has been connected to the called party and before the call has been disconnected.

38. (previously presented) The system according to claim 18, the identified database having been identified as a result of a request sent to an LNP database and a request sent to an access routing guide.

39. (previously presented) The system according to claim 38, wherein the access routing guide comprises a line information database (LIDB) access routing guide.

40 - 41. (canceled)

42. (new) The method according to claim 1 wherein the requests include queries and responses, and the first and second formats of the requests enable queries and responses to be correlated, thereby enabling the identification of the local service provider to occur in real time.

43. (new) The system according to claim 18 wherein the requests include queries and responses, and the first and second formats of the requests enable the queries and responses to be correlated, thereby enabling the identification of the local service provider of the caller to occur in real time.